
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 896

AN ACT CONCERNING A HOMELESS PERSON'S BILL OF RIGHTS.

SUMMARY:

This bill establishes a bill of rights for the state's homeless residents. It specifies that these rights are available only to the extent that they are implemented in accordance with state law, rules, and regulations; federal law; and the state and U.S. constitutions.

Under the bill of rights, each homeless person has the right to:

1. move freely in public spaces (e.g., parks, buildings, sidewalks, and public transportation) in the same manner as other people and without harassment or intimidation by law enforcement officers;
2. have equal employment opportunities;
3. receive emergency medical care;
4. register to vote and vote;
5. have their personal information protected and a reasonable expectation of privacy in their personal property; and
6. receive equal treatment by state and municipal agencies.

The bill requires each municipality to create a notice entitled "HOMELESS PERSON'S BILL OF RIGHTS" that includes the above rights. The notice must be conspicuously posted in the usual location for municipal notices.

The bill defines a "homeless person" as a person without a fixed or

regular residence who lives on the street or outdoors, in a homeless shelter, or in another temporary residence.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2013

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 22 Nay 3 (03/25/2013)